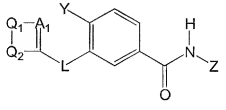
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A compound of formula (II) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(II)

where A_1 is C-X_1;

Q_1 is -A_2=A_3-;

Q_2 is -A_4=A_5-;

A_2 is C-X_2, A_3 is C-X_3, A_4 is C-X_4, and A_5 is C-X_5;

X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 and X_5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, a halogen atom, cyano, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, hydroxyamidino, nitro, amino, amidino, guanidino, C_{1-6}alkylamino, diC_{1-6}alkylamino, C_{1-6}alkylamidino, diC_{1-6}alkylamidino, C_{1-6}alkylguanidino, diC_{1-6}alkylguanidino, C_{1-6}alkylthio, C_{1-6}alkylsulfo, C_{1-6}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-6}alkylphosphono, diC_{1-6}alkylphosphono, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{3-9}cycloalkyl, C_{3-9}cycloalkoxy, C_{2-7}alkenyl, C_{2-7}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl,

C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl (the above 19 groups may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from a halogen atom, hydroxy, aryl, heteroaryl, and cyano), aryl, aryloxy, arylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylcarbonyl, and arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy (the above 7 groups may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from a halogen atom, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{1-6}alkoxy); or

X_1 and X_2, X_2 and X_3, X_3 and X_4, and X_4 and X_5, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a saturated or unsaturated 5- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring, or a saturated or unsaturated 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, and a sulfur atom;

Y is selected from the group consisting of C_{3-9}cycloalkyl, C_{2-7}alkenyl, C_{2-7}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{2-7}alkenyloxy, C_{2-7}alkynyloxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, C_{1-6}alkylsulfonyl {the above 15 groups may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered carbocyclyl, a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl containing one or more heteroatoms selected from an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, and a sulfur atom, a halogen atom, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkoxy,

C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, aminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, N-C_{1-6}alkylaminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, N,N-diC_{1-6}alkylaminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, amino, C_{1-6}alkylamino, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkylamino, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkylamino, aminoC_{1-6}alkylamino, diC_{1-6}alkylamino, bis(hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, bis(C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, bis(aminoC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, amidino, C_{1-6}alkylamidino, diC_{1-6}alkylamidino, guanidino, C_{1-6}alkylguanidino, diC_{1-6}alkylguanidino, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkylthio, C_{1-6}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-6}alkylphosphono, and diC_{1-6}alkylphosphono}, amino, C_{1-6}alkylamino, diC_{1-6}alkylamino (the above 2 groups may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered carbocyclyl, a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl containing one or more heteroatoms selected from an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, and a sulfur atom, a halogen atom, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, aminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, N-C_{1-6}alkylaminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, N,N-diC_{1-6}alkylaminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, amino, C_{1-6}alkylamino, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkylamino, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkylamino, aminoC_{1-6}alkylamino, diC_{1-6}alkylamino, bis(hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, bis(C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, bis(aminoC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, amidino, C_{1-6}alkylamidino, diC_{1-6}alkylamidino, guanidino, C_{1-6}alkylguanidino, diC_{1-6}alkylguanidino, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkylthio, C_{1-6}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-6}alkylphosphono, and

diC_{1-6}alkylphosphono), a halogen atom, nitro, cyano, carboxyl, and a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl containing one or more heteroatoms selected from an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, and a sulfur atom (the heterocyclyl may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, haloC_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkyl, and oxo);

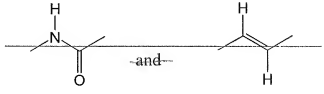
Z is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-9}cycloalkyl {the above 2 groups may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered carbocyclyl (the carbocyclyl group may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkyl), a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl containing one or more heteroatoms selected from an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, and a sulfur atom (the heterocyclyl group may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkyl), a halogen atom, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, aminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, N-C_{1-6}alkylaminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, N,N-diC_{1-6}alkylaminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, amino, C_{1-6}alkylamino, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkylamino, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkylamino, aminoC_{1-6}alkylamino, diC_{1-6}alkylamino,

bis(hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, bis(C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, bis(aminoC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbamoyl, diC_{1-6}alkylcarbamoyl[[{the]] (the above 2 groups may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from a halogen atom, hydroxy, cyano and amino), phosphono, C_{1-6}alkylphosphono, diC_{1-6}alkylphosphono, sulfonic acid, and C_{1-6}alkylsulfo}, and $-OR_1$ and $-NR_1R_2$;

R_1 and R_2 are each dependently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl, and a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl containing one or more heteroatoms selected from an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, and a sulfur atom (the above 3 groups may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered carbocyclyl, a saturated or unsaturated 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl containing one or more heteroatoms selected from an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, and a sulfur atom, a halogen atom, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkoxy, aminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, N-C_{1-6}alkylaminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, N,N-diC_{1-6}alkylaminoC_{1-6}alkoxy, amino, C_{1-6}alkylamino, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkylamino, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkylamino, aminoC_{1-6}alkylamino, diC_{1-6}alkylamino,

bis(hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, bis(C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, bis(aminoC_{1-6}alkyl)amino, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, phosphono, C_{1-6}alkylphosphono, diC_{1-6}alkylphosphono, sulfonic acid, and C_{1-6}alkylsulfo); or R_1 and R_2, together with the nitrogen atoms to which they are bound, form a saturated or unsaturated 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic ring containing one nitrogen atom and optionally further containing one or more heteroatoms selected from an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, and a sulfur atom; and

L is ~~selected from the formula~~:



~~and~~

Claim 2. (**Deleted**).

3. (**Previously Presented**) The compoundor the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein Z is a hydrogen atom, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-9}cycloalkyl,

hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxyC_{1-6}alkyl, cyanoC_{1-6}alkyl, pyridylC_{1-6}alkyl, dihydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, trihydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, morpholinoC_{1-6}alkyl, (N,N-diC_{1-6}alkylamino)C_{1-6}alkyl, or (N,N-bis(hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl)amino)C_{1-6}alkyl.

4. (**Previously Presented**) The compoundor the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 3, wherein Z is a hydrogen atom, methyl, ethyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl, 2-methoxyethyl, 2-cyanoethyl, 4-pyridylmethyl, 1-methoxybut-2-yl, 2,3-dihydroxyprop-1-yl, 1,3-dihydroxyprop-2-yl, 1,3-dihydroxy-2-hydroxymethylprop-2-yl, 2-morpholinoethyl, 1-hydroxyprop-2-yl, 1-hydroxy-3-methylbut-2-yl, 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)ethyl, 2-(N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)amino)ethyl, 2,4-dihydroxylbutyl, 2,3,4-trihydroxybutyl, 2,3,4,5-tetrahydroxypentyl, or 2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl.

5. (**Previously Presented**) The compoundor the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein Y is a halogen atom, cyano, C_{2-7}alkenyl, C_{2-7}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{3-5}cycloalkylC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{2-7}alkynyloxy, or haloC_{1-6}alkoxy.

6. (Currently Amended) The compoundor the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 5,

wherein Y is chloro, bromo, cyano, ethynyl, methoxy, trifluoromethoxy, cyclopropylmethoxy, 2-butyn-1-yloxy, or 2-chloroethoxy.

7. (**Previously Presented**) The compoundor the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein

X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 and X_5 are each independently selected from a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, haloC_{1-6}alkyl, haloC_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, and haloC_{1-6}alkylthio; or

X_1 and X_2, X_2 and X_3, X_3 and X_4, and X_4 and X_5, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a cyclohexane ring, a cyclopentane ring, a benzene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a 1,4-dioxane ring, a 1,3-dioxolane ring, a pyrrole ring, an imidazole ring, a thiazole ring, or a furan ring.

8. (**Previously Presented**) The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 7, wherein

X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 and X_5 are each independently selected from a hydrogen atom, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, t-butyl, i-propyl, methoxy, i-propoxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, methylthio, and trifluoromethylthio; or

X_1 and X_2, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a cyclohexane ring;

X_1 and X_2, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a pyridine ring;

X_2 and X_3, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a 1,4-dioxane ring; or

X_2 and X_3, together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, form a cyclopentane ring.

Claims 9-11 (**Cancelled**).

12. (**Previously Presented**) A pharmaceutical composition containing the compound, or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, as an active ingredient..

Claims 13-17 (**Cancelled**).